Monday, March 16, 2015

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Sound of a Woman winning at the Junos

Kiesza breaks through. Page 14

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

TORY JOINS A GREEN PARTY

Mayor John Tory chats with a young attendee of Toronto's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday. Thousands of green-accessory-clad onlookers lined the route that began at Yonge and St. George and ended at Nathan Phillips Square. For more coverage, see page 4.

LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

NDP leader woos Toronto

Politics. Mulcair uses stop in the city to fire up the locals about transit, minimum wage and daycare issues

Less than a week after Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau appealed to Toronto voters with a speech on civil liberties in an age of terror, Thomas Mulcair delivered a very different appeal to Canada's most populous city, arguing the NDP is best positioned to deliver on kitchen-table issues such as commute times, child care and housing.

The NDP leader focused relentlessly on Toronto in the campaign-style speech at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre Sunday, building a case for how NDP policies on public transit, daycare and the minimum wage would benefit residents of the GTA.

The address was peppered with references to Toronto neighbourhoods such as Parkdale and the Beaches, as well as to the 905 municipalities, where many analysts believe the federal election will be won or lost.

Mulcair himself emphasized the region's electoral importance.

"With just a handful more NDP seats right here in Toronto, we can defeat Stephen Harper and get Canada on track," he said. "From Oshawa to Oakville, from Scarborough to Streetsville, from Newmarket to the Toronto Islands, tell your neighbours that better transit is possible, tell them that quality affordable child care is just an election away, that affordable housing, help for new Canadians and small business is within reach."

Among Mulcair's Toronto-centric promises were: 164,000 new GTA daycare spots over eight years, a $15 federal minimum wage he said would help close the city's income gap, and $90 million a year for transit in the region.

Mulcair noted that Toronto's commute times are among the longest in the industrialized world, longer than those of London, New York or Los Angeles. He said he would meet with Mayor John Tory on Monday, with transit at the top of the agenda.

Though the speech was dense with policy and dry in tone, the NDP leader couldn't resist taking a few jabs at his opponents, alluding to "the damage that Stephen Harper has done" and to criticisms of Trudeau's inexperience.

"Whether it's meeting with premiers to work on the future of our federation, or world leaders to discuss economic opportunities or terrorist threats, being prime minister is not an entry-level job," Mulcair said.

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Fraud probe

Senior OPP union official fired

A senior Ontario Provincial Police Association official has been dismissed.

This follows an RCMP investigation that alleges the top leaders of the police force's union set up a network of schemes involving secretly owned companies and offshore investments to defraud union members.

Acting union president Doug Lewis confirmed through a union spokesman Sunday that the OPPA board voted to dismiss chief administrative officer Karl Walsh, but the spokesman would not provide further details.

None of the allegations has been proven and no charges have been laid.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crime

Charges laid after officer attacked

Toronto police say they've arrested a suspect in connection with an attack on an officer in the lobby of one of their divisional headquarters.

Police say on Friday a man entered the front lobby of 31 Division with a hammer and a knife.

Police allege the man approached an officer and swung at her with the hammer.

The officer suffered a glancing blow to the head. She was treated in hospital and released along with a second officer who suffered minor injuries while trying to subdue the assailant.

Norman Badria, 41, of Brampton, faces charges that include attempted murder.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Your obsolete trash is their treasure

Recycling. Get Reel wants to collect every last VHS tape in the province and reuse the usable parts

GILBERT NGABO
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Remember those VHS tapes?

There are reportedly 2.26 billion of them tucked into office closets and basements across Ontario alone, having met the fate newer technology brings.

That is, if they haven't simply ended up in landfills, causing all sorts of environmental hazards.

Enter project Get Reel, a Toronto-based venture that is determined to hunt down all these old-fashioned tapes, dismantle them and make use of their recyclable parts.

"The whole world doesn't really know what to do with these VHS tapes," said Philip Yan, co-founder of the project.

"These tapes are sitting everywhere in storage rooms, just amassing dust. And the big problem is that a lot of people treat them as usual garbage."

Yan and his business partner Graham Lewis say at least 80 per cent of the VHS tape is recyclable. They want to collect all the tapes that exist in Ontario — over two billion, according to data they obtained from Consumer Index Records for the past 20 years — and dismantle them, separating reusable parts from unrecyclable ones.

Quoted

"These tapes are sitting everywhere in storage rooms, just amassing dust."

Philip Yan, co-founder of Get Reel project

Philip Yan is determined to collect and dismantle every last VHS tape in Ontario to save the environment.

GILBERT NGABO/ METRO

The breakdown must be done by hand, because all brands of VHS are made differently, so one machine cannot be programmed to automatically separate them into pieces, said Yan.

"It's so labour intensive, nobody wants to deal with it," he said.

But the group is certain people will co-operate. Some municipalities have already agreed to hand piles over, and the organization is working around the clock to get its hands on big stocks from broadcasting corporations and other offices around the province, said Yan.

The dismantling centre will be at the Learning Enrichment Foundation in Etobicoke, where people working for Get Reel can easily get access to other community services such as daycare and career counselling, he said.

The group started a fundraising campaign on Indiegogo a week ago, looking to raise some $25,000 to help launch the initiative. A soft launch of the project is for planned early next month.

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City looks to SXSW for festival tips

Music. Mayor leads a nine-member delegation to Austin, Texas this week

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
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Toronto's music scene isn't floundering by any means.

But, Mayor John Tory and musicians agree, little things are keeping it from reaching its full potential.

For one, Mayor John Tory says, the city worries too much about noise complaints. As he sees it, "music is good noise."

Then, there's the city's "skittish" approach to outdoor venues, which, Tory says, needs to change.

As the mayor leads a nine-member delegation to Austin, Tex., this week, local musicians are hoping he makes good on promises for change.

The goal of the trip is to figure out how Toronto can become as great as the city that calls itself the "Live Music Capital of the World."

Tony Dekker, singer-songwriter of Toronto band Great Lake Swimmers, has some suggestions.

A good start, he said, would be giving the North by Northeast music festival a bit of a makeover. Closing off a street to traffic and filling it with pedestrians — and music — could go a long way, he said.

"Picture what shutting down Queen Street West, or a section of it, would look like," Dekker said. "It would be really cool, and they do that in Austin" for their South by Southwest festival.

Graham Henderson, president of Music Canada, said the little things the city can do will help: Like making sure musicians' vans aren't towed when parked outside the venues they're playing.

"There are a bunch of things we can do with a few strokes of the pen that will make it a much more music-friendly environment," he said.

The towing bit, however, might not fly with Tory — there will be no lenience for musicians who break his flagship anti-congestion policy.

"Park in the streets during rush hour (and) they will be ticketed and they will be towed," Tory said.

At a glance

- Toronto's North by Northeast music festival generates about $50 million for the local economy.
- The South by Southwest festival, meanwhile, generates three times that amount for Austin, Texas, which is smaller.
- Mayor John Tory wants to see Toronto's music scene catch up with its film scene, which TIFF has made world renowned.

Toronto band Great Lake Swimmers is among those hoping the city's music scene can pick up some extra traction. JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO

St. Patrick's Day revellers, many sporting emerald hues, red beards and four-leaf-clovers, came out in droves for Sunday's St. Patrick's Day parade in Toronto. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

St. Paddy's turns city green

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The parade may be over, but the day itself is yet to come. So, if you're not done celebrating St. Patrick's Day, here are some events slated for tomorrow in Toronto:

Ceili Cottage (1301 Queen St. E.) will be capping its week-long St. Paddy's festivities with an evening of music and Irish dancing starting at 3 p.m.

Freshly shucked oysters and traditional Celtic fare make this Leslieville spot the perfect place to get your craic (Irish for "fun") on.

If you drank a bit too much green beer over the weekend, why not rest up at Montgomery's Inn (4709 Dundas St. W.), where a traditional Irish tea will be served starting at 1 p.m.? The menu boasts classic porter cake, shamrock cookies and more Emerald Island faves.

The Smiling Buddha (961 College St.) is hosting its annual I'rish You Were Here party on Tuesday, complete with live music, beer tasting, bingo and an Irish jig dance-off. The fun starts at 4 p.m.

If you've got some time and some wheels, consider driving to Tamworth, Ont., about three hours east of Toronto. The tiny town is Canada's only official Gaeltacht (pronounced gail-tuck), a part of the world outside Ireland where the old dialect is still spoken. If you meet anyone, be sure to say "dia duit," which is Gaelic for "hello."

The Mill Street Brewpub (21 Tank House Lane) is hosting a five-course dinner complete with beer pairings on St. Patrick's Day starting at 6:30 p.m. There will be live music and one lucky attendee will get to be the ceremonial cask-tapper.

A young St. Patrick's Day Festival audience member is boosted to a better view of the many floats and groups on Yonge Street Sunday. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

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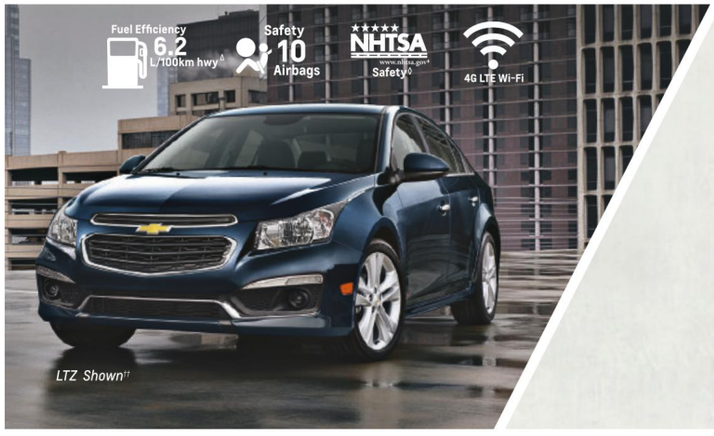

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Get your free ice cream cone for Dairy Queen's 75th birthday

Irena Idzior, middle, manager of Dairy Queen in the Eaton Centre, offers up a soft serve cone along with members of her staff. Fans of the ice cream venue will get to enjoy a free small vanilla cone today, Monday, March 16, at participating locations, in celebration of the brand 75th anniversary. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Etobicoke named city's cultural hotspot of 2015

Designation. 'There's a whole world of culture we have not been aware of,' says theatre director

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
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Etobicoke is hoping a new designation will turn fresh eyes on the community.

It's been named this year's "cultural hotspot" of Toronto and will be the focus from May to October of celebrations ranging from city-sponsored festivals to art and culture.

The city's Cultural Hotspot project is in its second year, and celebrated south Scarborough during 2014. The project is intended to highlight and develop arts and culture outside of downtown.

"That's what we hope will happen," said Heather Dick, artistic director of Etobicoke's Sirius Theatrical Company. "People will come from across the GTA and think, oh, there's dance out here, there's music out here, there's theatre out here, there's a whole world of culture we have not been aware of."

Arts and culture is already strong in Etobicoke, she said. The problem is, "people downtown" don't see the community that way.

"They don't know anything about it," she said. "I think they have to know that it's vibrant, that there's a lot of variety of art out here, from visual art, to theatre to music."

Dick's theatre company is putting on My Lakeshore — My Home, a series of performances that celebrate the people and culture of Etobicoke.

"We're hoping that it will include music, dance, possibly a rap piece, some short theatre scenes and perhaps monologues," Dick said.

Events

This year's Cultural Hotspot project events will include:

- Dancing in the Third Act, "an innovative seniors' contemporary dance project."
- Mobile MABELLE, a project where artists and youth will travel in a 1974 Sprite camper trailer/mobile art studio to collect Etobicoke residents' stories.
- Youth X Press Hotspot, which will help youth create eight murals that will be placed on TTC vehicles.

Heather Dick, artistic director of the Sirius Theatrical Company, leads a free-of-charge writing workshop at the new Toronto library in Etobicoke. The workshop is being held in anticipation of the My Lakeshore – My Home Festival, a signature partnership project of the city's Cultural Hotspot project, which celebrates arts, culture and community in Etobicoke. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Tory aide involved in library board vote

A top official in Mayor John Tory's office urged at least one Toronto Public Library board member to vote for new member Ron Carinci, a businessman who knows Tory, to become board chairman.

Board member and past chairman Councillor Paul Ainslie, who also sits on Tory's executive committee, told the Star that Vic Gupta, Tory's principal secretary, strongly suggested he support Carinci's candidacy.

"The mayor's principal secretary told me about a week before (the February vote) that he thought Ron Carinci would be a great library board chair," Ainslie said. "He urged me to vote for Ron Carinci, who is new on the board. I said I would think about it."

Ainslie said Gupta "mentioned the library is in labour negotiations next year and (Carinci) had experience at labour negotiations, and that he could bring that to the table."

In 2012, libraries across the city shut down for 10 days, when 2,300 workers rejected the city's contract offer and went on strike while Ainslie was chairman. On Feb. 17, Ainslie and other members at a library board meeting unanimously made Carinci, chief operating officer at development firm Urbacon, chairman.

Gupta referred the Star's questions to Amanda Galbraith, Tory's director of communications. In a statement, she said Tory has "no personal or business relationship with Mr. Carinci, (who) applied and went through the process like every other candidate."

"He was elected chair by his fellow library board members and we have every expectation that he will do an excellent job in that role. Any suggestion that the Mayor's Office improperly influenced this process is false."

Last month, Carinci told the Star: "I do know John Tory," but applied to join the library board before Tory was mayor, and spoke to "board members and other staff" — not Tory — about the appointment.

He noted that before going into development he was a corporate and commercial lawyer who has served on the board of the Toronto Blue Jays' Jays Care Foundation for eight years. Carinci was among the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp. board members who resigned in 2013 after Premier Kathleen Wynne fired Paul Godfrey as chairman. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Hardcore fans tune into Drake-cast

He can't seem to stop talking about TDot, the 6 or whatever cute moniker is next — and Torontonians can't seem to stop talking about Drake.

So it's perhaps no surprise that Toronto's newest and nichest podcast centres on two 28-year-old women riffing exclusively on Drake, and "Drake things." It's called Trust Issues.

Hosts Rawiya Kameir and Lauren Mitchell launched the monthly Drake-cast in late January with expectations that some people (combined they have more than 3,000 Twitter followers) would surely tune in. And they are.

"It's a lot to ask for people to listen to you talk about Drake for 45 minutes or an hour," Kameir admitted.

More than 1,600 have tuned in for each of the first two episodes to hear the hosts' casual banter — a figure that surprised them.

It's not the 10,000 listeners Toronto podcast Canadaland has racked up. But, it's more than double the 500 listeners who tuned in for the launch of Macleans' culture podcast The Thrill.

"The thing that has gotten the biggest reaction is how much Kameir and I go in on OB O'Brien," said Mitchell.

Translation: "Go in on" means "make fun of." OB O'Brien is an artist on Drake's label, OVOSound.

The podcast is a natural extension of the almost daily Drake chats the pair already have, Kameir said.

"We both spent a lot of time doing this anyway," she said. "We spend a lot of time on Twitter. I'm a music journalist and Lauren is a comedian and Drake is a big part of our work. He's also part of our social lives."

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD/METRO

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Naomi Klein, who won the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction, said she will not cross the picket lines at U of T for a planned speaking event. BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Klein shows her solidarity

U of T event. Critically acclaimed author will not cross picket lines for planned speech in support of strikers

Naomi Klein says she won't cross picket lines for a planned speaking event at the University of Toronto next month.

Teaching assistants and part-time instructors at the university have been on strike since Feb. 27, when members rejected a tentative deal reached by CUPE 3902's bargaining team.

The author of No Logo and The Shock Doctrine is scheduled to discuss her new book on climate change, This Changes Everything, alongside author Thomas King at the first in an annual series of literary talks hosted by the English department on April 7. In a statement released Friday, Klein says she "will not cross a picket line, especially at my alma mater."

She encouraged university administrators to return to the bargaining table so that "this dispute is resolved and the event can go ahead as planned." CUPE 3902 has received endorsements and letters of support from several prominent groups and individuals.

Picketers are seeking a pay increase that brings annual earnings closer to a living wage. The strike has effectively shut down tutorials, labs and some classes.

"We are overwhelmed by Naomi's show of solidarity for our members," said CUPE 3902 chair Erin Black. "Gestures such as Naomi's … demonstrate to U of T administration that it is not 'business as usual.'" TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Etobicoke Creek

Woman found in ravine hospitalized

A woman thought to be in her 90s was rushed to a trauma centre after she was found in a ravine near the Etobicoke Creek Sunday.

Paramedics and Toronto Fire had to extricate the woman from the ravine behind a building after they were called to the Neilson Dr. area, south of Bloor St. W. near The West Mall, shortly before noon.

She was injured, and paramedics were treating her for hypothermia. Her condition was considered life-threatening. How she ended up in the ravine, or how long she had been there, were not known.

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Politics. Senators' anxiety builds amid ongoing audit

Single phone calls, sandwiches eaten during committee meetings, postage stamps — the smallest details have come up for review in the auditor general's study of Senate expenses.

Senators of all political persuasions have been taken aback by the strength of the microscope fixed on their office, travel and living expenses, as well as claims submitted by staff.

And it hasn't just been the types of questions that have ruffled feathers, but also the level of access afforded to auditor general Michael Ferguson's staff — some 40 auditors in any given month, his office said. They've been able to delve into the emails of senators, and cellphone records.

For example, the auditor general's office has been cross-referencing daily expense claims with activities, to verify if the upper chamber really needed to pay for a lunch or whether one was served in a meeting or on a plane trip.

The angst has been building steadily in the Senate as the final report draws closer.

Some have decided to fork over the cash before the report comes out — $185,677 was reimbursed to the public purse by unnamed individuals in the 2013-14 fiscal year alone, not including monies returned by embattled senators Mike Duffy, Pamela Wallin and Mac Harb.

Many senators complain bitterly that the auditor general's office has not shown a good understanding of what constitutes Senate business, and the daily work they do.

A major source of anxiety is over the type of travel that senators do on a weekly basis. How much time do they spend in their Parliament Hill office and why? What does normal travel look like in their home provinces?

An update of the travel policy was instituted in the summer of 2012, with an appendix noting that "speaking engagements or attendance at fundraising events other than those organized by the Senate" did not qualify as an expense.

All of this confusion will also be hashed out in the upcoming trial of Sen. Duffy, which involves several charges linked directly to his travel and living expenses. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Snow blankets east coast

A Montrealer walks down the street during a snowfall on Sunday. The last official week of winter started with a bang in the Maritimes as well, with a storm ripping through all three provinces and paralyzing parts of the region. Roadways closed, many flights were cancelled, and police throughout the region advised people to stay home if at all possible. An accumulation of 20 centimetres is expected overnight in much of New Brunswick and P.E.I. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hockey. Abusive parents to face stiffer penalties

Hockey parents who swear and yell at coaches, referees and players during their kids' games will be handed stiffer penalties next season by a British Columbia association that is taking aim at "rink rage" and inspiring officials across the country.

The Vancouver Island Amateur Hockey Association's stance garnered more support this week, as police in West Vancouver recommended an assault charge against a 45-year-old man. He allegedly grabbed another player's father during a game between the Hollyburn Huskies and the Semiahmoo Ravens from Surrey, B.C.

Jim Humphrey, president of the Vancouver Island association, said he received widespread support after eight parents were given a one-game suspension for abusing referees, often teens themselves, who quit in frustration. Five more parents had to sit out the next game for repeat offences.

In the fall, parents who continue their "overzealous" behaviour after being banned from games will have their children cut from the team, Humphrey said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver area

Ballots arrive for transit plebiscite

Ballots for a plebiscite will begin arriving in mailboxes Monday, asking Vancouver-area residents whether they're willing to foot the bill for a huge public-transportation overhaul.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bill C-51

Thousands protest anti-terror bill

Thousands of Canadians came together to loudly denounce the Conservative government's anti-terror legislation in rallies held across the country on Saturday.

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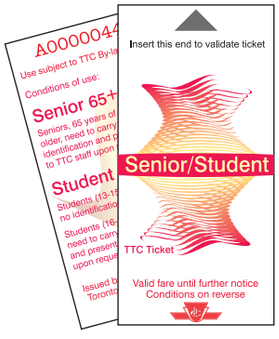

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Police not target: Accused shooter

Ferguson. Prosecutor says suspect told investigators he was firing at someone else

A 20-year-old man charged Sunday with shooting two police officers who were keeping watch over a demonstration outside the Ferguson Police Department had participated in the protests earlier that night, police said.

St. Louis County prosecutor Robert McCulloch said Jeffrey Williams told authorities he was firing at someone with whom he was in a dispute, not at the police officers.

"We're not sure we completely buy that part of it," McCulloch said, adding that there might have been other people in the vehicle with Williams.

Williams is charged with two counts of first-degree assault, one count of firing a weapon from a vehicle and three counts of armed criminal action. McCulloch said the investigation is ongoing.

The officers were shot early Thursday as a crowd began to break up after a late-night demonstration that unfolded after Ferguson police Chief Tom Jackson resigned in the wake of a Justice Department report that found widespread racial bias in the police department.

"He was out there earlier that evening as part of the demonstration," McCulloch said of Williams.

A 41-year-old St. Louis County officer was shot in the right shoulder, the bullet exiting through his back. A 32-year-old officer from Webster Groves was wearing a riot helmet with the face shield up. He was shot in the right cheek, just below the eye, and the bullet lodged behind his ear. The officers were released from the hospital later Thursday.

McCulloch said Williams used a .40mm handgun, which matches the shell casings at the scene.

Williams, who is black, is being held on $300,000 bond.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Four years since start of anti-Assad uprising

Anti-Syrian government protesters act as dead prisoners who were killed in Syrian government jails, during a protest to mark the fourth anniversary of the Syrian uprising, at the Martyrs' Square in downtown Beirut, Lebanon, Sunday. Before the civil war started in March 2011, an estimated 22 million people lived in Syria. More than 3.8 million Syrians have fled their country in the four years since the uprising against President Bashar Assad began. HUSSEIN MALLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brazil

Death toll in bus crash rises

The Brazilian government raised the death toll of a bus accident to 54 while police continued their search for more victims Sunday in the rugged lands of southern Brazil.

The bus plunged 1,300 feet down a mountain near the city of Joinville on Saturday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britain

Alleged would-be militants sent back

British police said three males, two 17-year-olds and a 19-year-old, have been deported from Turkey and arrested on suspicion of planning terrorist acts. Their names haven't been released.

The trio left Britain several days ago, travelling to Spain and then flying to Turkey. They were detained in Istanbul on Friday after British officials notified Turkish authorities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China. Premier promises to keep reducing red tape

Premier Li Keqiang expressed determination Sunday to press ahead with reforms meant to reduce the government's role in the Chinese economy in hopes of spurring growth — despite what he acknowledged would be pain for "vested interests" that benefit from regulation.

"This is not nail-clipping. This is like taking a knife to one's own flesh," Li said after the close of China's annual legislature in Beijing.

During his only news conference of the year, the premier repeated pledges to reduce requirements for government approval of new businesses.

At this year's session of the National People's Congress, the government lowered the official economic growth to seven per cent from last year's 7.5 per cent and promised to maintain employment levels, fight corruption and curb pollution.

Li acknowledged that reforms face opposition from politically influential state companies that might face tougher competition and officials who might see their own status reduced.

"During the course of reform, vested interests will be upset because the government is cutting its own powers," he said, adding that China as a whole will benefit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heart health

Experimental cholesterol drug shows promise

New research boosts hope that a highly anticipated, experimental class of cholesterol drugs can greatly lower the risk for heart attacks and other heart-related problems.

Studies presented Sunday at a cardiology conference in San Diego suggest that people taking one of these drugs had half the risk of dying or suffering a heart problem.

Side-effects, especially whether they can harm thinking and memory, remain a question.

One of the drugs is being developed by Amgen Inc. and the other by Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and Sanofi.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt conference

Investors sign deals worth billions of dollars

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi on Sunday boisterously marked the final day of a major economic conference that has injected billions of dollars' worth of aid and investment in his country, while still acknowledging the road to recovery will be long and costly.

Investors committed $10.7 billion US to projects on Saturday, a day after Gulf Arab nations announced a $12.5-billion US aid package. The agreements include a $6.5-billion deal with Egypt's Orascom group and the Abu Dhabi-owned International Petroleum Investment Co. to build a coal-fired power plant.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pipeline network expands as Keystone fight drags on

Oil industry. Network has increased by a quarter over the last decade, and new capacity now dwarfs the Keystone project

Paul Stolen, a retired state biologist now working with groups opposing an Enbridge project in Minnesota, says he thinks the number of pipeline projects will only multiply. MINNEAPOLIS STAR-TRIBUNE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

In a far corner of North Dakota, just a few hundred kilometres from the proposed path of the Keystone XL pipeline, 84,000 barrels of crude oil per day recently began flowing through a new line that connects the state's sprawling oilfields to an oil hub in Wyoming.

In West Texas, engineers activated a new pipeline that cuts diagonally across the state to deliver crude from the oil-rich Permian Basin to refineries near Houston. And in a string of towns in Kansas, Iowa and South Dakota, local government officials are scrutinizing the path of pipeline extensions that would pass nearby.

While the Keystone project awaits a final decision, scenes like these are unfolding almost every week in lesser-known developments that have quietly added more than 18,600 kilometres of pipeline to the nation's domestic oil network.

About 3.3 million barrels per day of capacity have been added since 2012 alone — five times more oil than the Canada-to-Texas Keystone line could carry if it's ever built.

The pipeline build-out provides a little-noticed counterpoint to the fierce political battle being waged over the 1,900-kilometre TransCanada project, which is still in limbo seven years after it was proposed. During the long wait for Keystone, the petroleum industry has pushed relentlessly everywhere else to get oil to market more efficiently, and its adversaries have been unable to stop other pipelines.

Quoted

"When Keystone was first announced, I think that was something like a third of (TransCanada's) expected budget.... TransCanada now has had so many projects that now Keystone's a much smaller percentage."

Rob DeSai, an equity analyst with Edward Jones who focuses on the energy industry.

Environmental groups have fought Keystone by citing the risk of leaks and the climate-change consequences of fossil fuels. Their success has inspired local protest groups to challenge more projects. But those efforts, while slowing a few pipelines, have not stopped any because the regulatory path is smoother when a pipeline does not cross an international border, as Keystone would.

In Minnesota, local opponents succeeded last year in getting state regulators to consider rerouting a 990-kilometre pipeline proposed by Toronto-based Enbridge around pristine lakes and forests, delaying it for at least a year.

More typical, though, was an Enbridge project to double the capacity of a 460-kilometre stretch of pipeline in Michigan. Groups like the Michigan Coalition Against Tar Sands fought the proposal, citing a spill in 2010 that caused serious environmental damage. But the Michigan Public Service Commission ruled the project acceptable, and the expansion went ahead.

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Utah plans registry for scammers

In the same way a customer searching for a new laptop might consult Consumer Reports before making a purchase, Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes wants would-be investors to consult a resource listing convicted fraudsters before handing over any money.

It was Utah's high rate of affinity fraud, in which someone takes advantage of a trusted relationship, that led Reyes to team up with lawmakers to authorize a state-run registry of white-collar criminals.

The registry would operate similarly to a sex-offender registry, listing the names, photographs, aliases, birthdates and convictions of scammers with certain first- or second-degree felonies.

Quoted

"People are extremely trusting in our state."

Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes

The listing is not meant to punish or shame criminals, Reyes said, but simply to provide another tool to help prevent financial loss in vulnerable populations.

And in a critical difference for the registry for sex crimes, the white-collar criminals would not be required to report their listing to employers or neighbours. A name will be removed from the catalogue if the criminal pays full restitution.

All information in the registry is already public and appears in court records and news reports. Reyes says his database will be more user-friendly than court records.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VOICES

T.O. BUDGET: TORY OPTS FOR HARD PATH

Columnist Matt Elliott wonders whether Tory, still a newbie to city hall, really understands just how hard the hard way really is

TORY'S TORONTO
Matt Elliott

Presenting his first municipal budget to Toronto city council last week, Mayor John Tory made it clear that, for him, there's only one path worth taking — the hard one.

"It's the easy way out to say let's just have three or four per cent put onto property taxes," he explained, arguing that he and most of council were elected by people who didn't vote for tax increases.

"I know they didn't send me here — and I don't think they sent any of us here — to take the easy way out."

But his tough talk only left me wondering: Does Tory, still a newbie to city hall, really understand just how hard the hard way is?

Because this path he's chosen is dark and full of terrors.

Even after factoring in an inflationary property tax increase and yet another TTC fare hike, Toronto is staring down a $305-million budget hole in 2016. Then another $276 million in 2017.

Meanwhile, there's a giant list of bills coming due.

The city needs to find $2.6 billion in funds to fix units in Toronto Community Housing buildings.

The repair backlog for major and local roads will increase to more than $1 billion combined by 2024.

Toronto is on the hook for the cost overruns on the Spadina subway extension — reported at about $400 million. And that's on top of a long list of over-budget projects.

And there remains no plan to make the TTC completely accessible by the 2025 provincial deadline.

But even after inheriting this heap of challenges, Tory has so far only added more to the pile.

He's pledged to deliver his SmartTrack transit plan, requiring at least $2.7 billion from city coffers. And, in the wake of provincial cutbacks to affordable housing, he endorsed a complicated plan that'll see the city take a loan from itself — a loan that needs to be paid back with interest.

You could argue that Tory's tough talk on holding the line on taxes makes for good politics. This kind of anti-tax rhetoric plays well with voters. But Tory had another politically savvy choice.

He could have used his first budget as a chance to solve at least some of these problems, pushing through a larger property tax increase. An extra five bucks a month from every household would have gone a long way.

By way of explanation, he could have blamed predecessor Rob Ford and the provincial government for creating such a fiscal mess. He wouldn't have been wrong to do so.

Even if Tory's popularity dropped, he'd still have three years to fix that — all while facing future budgets that'd be far less daunting.

That's what I would have done if I were in Tory's shoes, but the mayor chose a different path — a perilous one.

Let's hope he understands what's coming.

Budget woes

Toronto is staring down a $305-million budget hole in 2016. Then another $276 million in 2017.

Your Toronto

Here comes the sun

Photo submitted by Metro reader Patricia McPhail

Patricia McPhail has spent the winter going out early each morning to capture the beauty a sunrise can bring. She took this picture, which she calls Misty Morning, at Prince of Wales Park in south Etobicoke last month. "It has been such a great winter for amazing pictures," McPhail said.

CONTRIBUTED

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Upcoming

Beyond March Madness

The winter break is here, and on top of watching the NCAA's March Madness, the city has plenty going on.

The Hockey Hall Of Fame is open for the public to revel in the world's greatest collection of hockey artifacts and get hands on the popular Stanley Cup. Details at hhof.com.

Carnival games, guessing games and aboriginal games are available at the Bata Shoe Museum, where people can craft their own games to take home. More information at batashoemuseum.ca.

And it's March Break Enrichment Extravaganza at the Toronto Zoo, where people get a chance to engage with animals including polar bears, otters and meerkats. Find more details at torontozoo.com/marchbreak.

GILBERT NGABO/METRO

Promoting Games by Dames

Every wondered where you can find feminist video games?

Dames Making Games workshop will help answer that question and many others. On March 19 as part of the Hacking the Culture Speakers Series at Ryerson, the workshop will focus on women's work in the industry, as well as other groups traditionally marginalized in gaming. Registration is free at dmgworkshop.eventbrite.com.

GILBERT NGABO/METRO

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SHOWSTOPPERS

ALANIS ACHIEVES BLISS

Calgary's Kiesza took a gentle turn at the piano before exploding into the fleet-footed fury of Hideaway, replete with leap-frogging dancers, at Sunday Night's Junos. The 26-year-old won for breakthrough artist of the year, dance recording of the year for her debut album Sound of a Woman, and video of the year for her mesmerizing viral smash Hideaway. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Junos highlights. Kiesza, Weeknd, Arkells win multiple awards, but legend Morissette steals show

At the 2015 Juno Awards, Kiesza skipped into the spotlight, Arkells were hailed as hometown heroes, the Weeknd worked and an 80-year-old Leonard Cohen snagged the biggest Juno of his career — and then Alanis Morissette was here to remind us she still knows exactly how to steal a show.

The 40-year-old Morissette was ushered into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame and closed the show Sunday at Hamilton's FirstOntario Centre with a powerful medley of Uninvited, You Oughta Know and Thank You that melted a grateful Steeltown audience.

"I am deeply appreciative of this country," she said calmly after a standing ovation. "A lot of people around the planet ask me what is about you Canadians that make you so expressed and so compelling.

"And I say, 'There's definitely something in the water other than fluoride."'

Morissette's serene presence steadied another breathlessly efficient show in which several decorated artists could stake rightful claim to the status as the year's most distinguished victor.

There was the absent Cohen, Montreal's bard of blackness whose gold-certified Popular Problems took the evening's top prize for album of the year, thus giving him six career Junos and continuing his unlikely late-career creative renaissance.

Or perhaps the year's crown jewel was Calgary's Kiesza, winner of her first three career Junos after her irrepressible one-take, Brooklyn-shot video for Hideaway — a throaty ode to '90s house — catapulted her to unlikely worldwide success.

Before she claimed her award for breakthrough artist of the year, she even took a moment seemingly offering support to 16-year-old fellow nominee Shawn Mendes (backstage, she called him "such a sweetheart" and testified that he was a deserving winner: "That kid did it all on his own.")

"I'm shaking. I'm a little nervous," she said as she accepted her award. "Thank you to all my fans ... thank you for all the support this past year."

The Junos also proved to be believers in Magic!, the evening's leading nominees whose reggae-redolent smash Rude landed the Toronto quartet awards for single of the year and breakthrough group of the year.

They performed the song, too — married as it was to new single No Way No — and frontman Nasri Atweh was air-conditioner breezy both while singing and speechifying.

Magic! and Kiesza weren't the only Juno newcomers to make their presence felt.

Although Toronto's the Weeknd (the moniker for master of grim seduction Abel Tesfaye) had won two awards in prior years, he performed for the first time — crooning his pitch-black 50 Shades of Grey tune Earned It on a dimly lit stage, illuminated by sparse light bulbs — and claimed the biggest Juno of his career for artist of the year, in addition to R&B/soul recording of the year.

The typically publicity-averse 25-year-old allowed his speaking voice a rare cameo when he accepted the show-closing award. "Um, I'd like to thank the Junos, of course," he said. "I want to thank Canada, man, thank you guys. I wouldn't be here without you. Thank you."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The award for best red-carpet look goes to ...Tanzanian-Canadian singer Alysha Brilla, whose sophomore record Womyn was nominated for adult contemporary album of the year. The award went to Sarah McLachlan. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alanis Morissette receives her achievement from Canada's Music Hall of Fame THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arkells do swell

Hamilton favourites Arkells won group of the year as well as rock album of the year.

Talking the Talk

Toronto quintet July Talk were inaugural winners, taking home the trophy for alternative album of the year.

Weeknd double

Toronto alt-R&B paramour The Weeknd won artist of the year, as well as R&B/soul recording of the year for his hit, Often.

Tag' you're a hit

Inuk throat singer Tanya Tagaq procured her first Juno for Aboriginal album of the year for Animism, which also won the Polaris Music Prize.

Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Celebs call out D&G's gay-parent snipe

Designers Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana have some not-too-progressive thoughts about gay parents, and certain big names are none too happy about it.

"We oppose gay adoptions. The only family is the traditional one. No chemical offspring and rented uterus: life has a natural flow, there are things that should not be changed," Gabbana declared during an interview with Italy's Panorama magazine. Dolce had some choice words as well: "You are born to a mother and a father — or at least that's how it should be," he added. "I call children of chemistry synthetic children. Uteri (for) rent, semen chosen from a catalogue."

Needless to say, Elton John was not pleased. John's two children were conceived by in vitro fertilization. "How dare you refer to my beautiful children as 'synthetic,'" he posted to Instagram. "Your archaic thinking is out of step with the times, just like your fashions. I shall never wear Dolce and Gabbana ever again."

Courtney Love chimed in as well, posting that she wants to burn all her Dolce and Gabbana goods. "I'm just beyond words and emotions," she tweeted.

Gabbana said in a statement Sunday that "it was never our intention to judge other people's choices." Dolce says he was expressing his view about family based on his experience, and that he is aware that other types of families are just as legitimate. **WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

"Your archaic thinking is out of step with the times, just like your fashions."
Singer Elton John, in response to comments made by designers Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana

Stefano Gabbana (left) and Domenico Dolce are in hot water over remarks they made to an Italian magazine last week about gay adoptions and in vitro fertilization. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Miley and Patrick's love is infectious

Miley Cyrus' relationship with Patrick Schwarzenegger is getting "very serious," sources say, and as luck would have it his sister, Katherine Schwarzenegger, is totally on board with that idea.

"I think they're adorable," Katherine tells Extra. "If my brother's happy, I'm happy and that's all that matters to me. You just want your sibling to be happy, if they're with someone who makes them happy and in a happy healthy relationship then I'm happy."

Man, she really likes the word happy.

Guys, Biebs has feelings too

Justin Bieber really wants you to like him again. After being the butt of the joke for hours during the taping of his Comedy Central roast, the 21-year-old Canadian singer gave a contrition speech.

"I turned a lot of people off over the past few years, but I know I can still turn out good music and turn everything all around," said Bieber, whose music has been overshadowed by his offstage antics, which include reckless driving, public urination and throwing eggs at a neighbour's home.

"I've lost some of my best qualities. For that, I am sorry," he said. "I'm looking forward to being someone who you guys can all look at and be proud of."

It was a sweet ending to a night of sharp barbs aimed as much at Bieber as the rest of the roasters. Hosted by Kevin Hart, the Comedy Central Roast of Justin Bieber, taped Saturday at Sony Studios, also features Snoop Dogg, Shaquille O'Neal, Martha Stewart and Ludacris. It's set to premiere March 30. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Bargain shopping gone berserk

A good deal? Sale shopping can be a good cover for the compulsive spending that's draining your bank account

GAIL VAZ-OXLADE
Gail blogs daily at gailvazoxlade.com

All those shopping bags might be weighing you down in more ways than you realize. ISTOCK

Who doesn't love a good sale? But when bargain hunting, coupon clipping, or mastering the deal becomes the objective, you and your budget are likely headed for big trouble. If you catch yourself saying, "But it was such a deal!" it's time to think twice.

If you're spending money you don't have — if you're putting it on credit and not paying it off in full by the end of the month — it's not a deal. If you're buying something you don't need, it's not a deal. If it takes you three weeks, three months, or never to put what you bought to use, it's not a deal.

A deal is buying the snowsuit your child is going to wear next winter on sale at the end of this winter at 70 per cent off. A deal is picking up a new book you know your sister is dying to read — for half price. A deal is getting something you really need or want at a significant saving, and being able to pay for it in cash.

Shopping for bargains has become a social disease. So how do you know if you've been bitten? Here are three clues:

Your home is jammed to the rafters with stuff.
Chronic bargain shopping is often unconscious spending, so you may not even know you're doing it. Take a look around. How much of the stuff you bought is sitting unused?

Your favourite phrase is "It was on sale?"
All of us fall prey to impulse shopping from time to time. The problem for people who can't curb their desire for immediate gratification is that they're not prioritizing. They've lost (or never had) the ability to figure out if they can do without, so, even with a whopping salary, they're a centimetre away from destitution.

Acquiring something new makes you feel happy.
As counterintuitive as it may seem, some people become chronic bargain shoppers out of a fear of poverty. It can be a self-esteem thing, too. If you have to have the latest fashions and accessories to feel you're admired, your self-esteem issues are showing.

People who can't pass up a good sale even if it's on something they don't want, need, or even particularly like aren't smart bargain buyers, they're compulsive shoppers. Scoring deals helps them to ease their insecurities and feel more competent and in control. And they rationalize their purchases as something good they are doing for themselves or their families.

A study by Norwich Union Insurance in Britain in late 2007 showed that 17 per cent of Brits spent more than planned because they couldn't resist a bargain, and almost a quarter of them could justify buying more because of a low price tag. In fact, nearly a third got such a buzz bargain shopping that they were always on the look out for the next hit.

The next time you find yourself sidling up to the cash register with a bargain in hand, ask yourself:

- Do I need it?
- How will I pay for it?
- What will I do with it?
- What would happen if I waited?

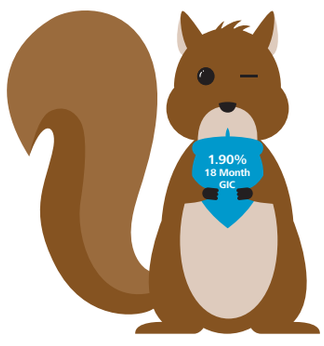
Better yet, get yourself a small notebook and promise you'll never again shop without a list. In this notebook, keep a list of the things you need and want. If you find a bargain, look at your list to see where that item is. If it's at or near the top of your list in terms of priority, and you have the cash on hand, buy. If not, walk away.

You'll accomplish a whole bunch of things with a list book. You'll keep yourself on track, looking only at things you know you need or want, and you'll prioritize your spending.

Are you a bargain junkie?

Do you...

- Hit sale and clearance racks when you're feeling sad or mad?
- Spend more than you can afford?
- See sales as opportunities you just can't pass up?
- Walk out of stores with things you hadn't expected to buy?
- Routinely forget what you bought and find things in your closet with the tags still on?



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Find inspiration in flavours of Thailand

Dinner. Flank Steak with Thai Sauce employs staples such as coconut milk and ginger

ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

This recipe serves six. ROSE REISMAN

Flank steak is one of the leanest cuts of meat you can eat and is absolutely delicious. I love it as a main course dinner for the family and especially for entertaining hard-to-please guests.

You can always substitute another lean steak such as top sirloin, New York strip or tenderloin.

Ingredients

Thai sauce
- 1 cup light coconut milk
- 1/4 cup freshly squeezed lime or lemon juice
- 3 tbsp brown sugar, packed
- 2 tbsp fish or oyster sauce
- 1 1/2 tsp minced garlic
- 1 tsp minced fresh ginger
- 1 tsp hot Asian chili sauce
- 2 tsp cornstarch

- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 cups sliced onions
- 2 cups sliced red bell peppers

- 1 1/2 lb flank steak

Garnish
- 1/3 cup chopped cilantro or parsley

Leftovers are great to eat at room temperature or as filling for sandwiches.

If you have time, a flank steak can be marinated for a couple of hours or overnight for a more tender result.

Light coconut milk is a fresh addition to this recipe and one quarter of a cup has only 40 calories and four grams of fat. Compare this to regular coconut milk, which has 136 calories and 14 grams of fat!

Directions

1. To make the sauce: In a large bowl, combine the coconut milk, lime juice, sugar, fish sauce, garlic, ginger, chili sauce and cornstarch.

2. In a nonstick skillet sprayed with vegetable spray, heat the oil over medium-high heat. Cook the onion for 5 to 8 minutes until lightly browned. Add bell peppers and sauté for 5 minutes. Set aside.

3. In grill pan or barbecue sprayed with vegetable spray and preheated to high, grill the steak for about 5 minutes per side for medium-rare or just until done to your preference.

4. Add the sauce to the vegetables and simmer for 5 minutes, until slightly thickened. Slice the steak against the grain and serve with the sauce. Garnish with cilantro.

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Per serving	
• **Calories.** 265	• **Total fat.** 13 g
• **Carbohydrates.** 10.5 g	• **Saturated fat.** 6.0 g
• **Fibre.** 1.1 g	• **Cholesterol.** 59 mg
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Don't just follow the leader — become one

Career building. If you plan on moving up the ladder, you need to be proactive and take risks

LAKSHMI GANDHI
Metro in New York City

Volunteering to present at a conference is a great way to broaden your network. ISTOCK

Read any career book or blog, and there will likely be a section on the importance of developing your leadership skills in order to move ahead in your career. What's often less clear (especially to younger workers) is how to best go about doing that.

"Rather than just saying something like, 'My job as a receptionist is just to let people through,' you should be using your job as a platform and take more things on," says Herminia Ibarra, the author of Act Like a Leader, Think Like a Leader and an expert on leadership development. "That's how you move up."

Ibarra offers this advice for employees planning their next move:

Quoted

"Get involved in extracurricular activities and industry associations and go to conferences that let you see the big picture."

Herminia Ibarra, author of Act Like a Leader, Think Like a Leader

Take risks

Oftentimes, Ibarra says, employees are hesitant about mixing things up when they are in charge of a project because of a fear of inauthenticity. "When you are in an unfamiliar role, you don't know what you want to be like," she notes.

"Taking more of a take-charge attitude and doing things like working your network and selling ideas almost seems like a violation of who you are."

Ibarra urges fledgling leaders to put those hesitations aside. "Whatever image you have in your mind of a leader is a caricature," she says. "You can say, 'I don't want to be that person, but I am going to make a commitment to explore outside my comfort zone.'"

Expand your horizons

In addition to branching out within your company, Ibarra urges workers to lean on their networks. "Say you think you should become a better speaker or a better networker," she says.

"If these are things that don't come naturally to you, what I would do is find two or three role models — people you like or respect — and pull out one or two things that they do well and see if you can try that out yourself."

Do more than your job description

One trap that many people fall into, says Ibarra, is that they feel restricted by their jobs. "Try to see if you can expand the boundaries of your job," she urges. "Get involved in extracurricular activities and industry associations and go to conferences that let you see the big picture. Then, ask yourself how you can apply those skills to your job and learn to be more strategic."

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Gold-medal game

The Carleton Ravens' Philip Scrubb scores two of his game-high 28 points against the Ottawa Gee-Gees on Sunday at the Mattamy Athletic Centre. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Carleton captures 5th straight title

The Carleton Ravens rule. Again.

The Ravens roared to their fifth consecutive Canadian university men's basketball title Sunday, thoroughly dismantling the crosstown rival Ottawa Gee-Gees 93-46.

Philip Scrubb poured in 28 points, while Thomas Scrubb added 20, capping spectacular college careers for the brothers from Richmond, B.C. They became just the fifth and sixth players in CIS history to win five CIS titles.

After the final buzzer sounded on the Ravens' 11th title in 13 years, Carleton fans flooded the court and the Scrubb brothers were surrounded in a huge team hug.

Moe Ismail scored 10 points to top the Gee-Gees, who played the fourth quarter without James Derouin, this season's CIS coach of the year. Derouin picked up his second technical with just under a minute to play in the third and was ejected.

That's the kind of day it was for the Gee-Gees, who split their two games with Carleton in the regular season.

The game was played before an energized crowd of 3,917 fans at Ryerson's Mattamy Athletic Centre that included noisy sections of students from each school. One red-clad Ravens supporter held aloft a sign that said, simply: Raven Domination.

It was bang-on.

The Ravens raced out to a 15-10 lead after one quarter, then opened the second with a 19-4 run to go up 34-14. Carleton went into the dressing room at halftime leading 38-23. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jones leads Ryerson to bronze medal

CIS basketball. Rams guard tallies 12 points in final quarter, sparking a 15-0 run to down Vikes

Jahmal Jones' final game for the Ryerson Rams was one to remember Sunday.

The six-foot guard from Mississauga poured in 25 points, including 12 in a dominant final quarter, as the seventh-seeded Rams defeated the fourth-seeded Victoria Vikes 82-68 to win bronze at the CIS men's basketball championship.

Jones, who led the Rams this season with 17.2 points per game, was held to two points by the Ottawa Gee-Gees in the Rams' 84-75 semifinal loss Saturday night.

"It's heartbreaking to see when a young kid who has had such a special career struggles on a big stage (Saturday night)," said Ryerson coach Roy Rana. "I think he bounced back and showed people why he's one of the best players in the country today.

"I'm very proud to say he played for me."

A jitterbug of a guard, the 160-pound Jones plays with speed and vision — and his mouthpiece usually half-sticking out of his mouth as he advances.

The 24-year-old hit just one of seven shots against the Gee-Gees. On Sunday, he hit 12 of 20 including six of seven in the fourth as the Rams put the game away with a 15-0 run that pushed their lead to 76-60.

Jones was too emotional to meet the media afterwards, according to a Ryerson official.

Adika Peter-McNeilly added 21 points for the Rams, who had only about 12 hours to get ready for the 11:30 a.m. ET start Sunday.

Big man Chris McLaughlin had 22 points to lead the fourth-seeded Vikes, who came into the tournament as Canada West champs after a 15-5 regular season.

Jahmal Jones
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Despite the short turnaround, Rana said his team's speed and fitness made the difference.

"We did a better job of taking the ball out of McLaughlin's hands down the stretch," said Rana. "He's a pretty special player for them."

The Mattamy Athletic Centre crowd for the bronze-medal game was nowhere near Saturday's sellout of 4,056. But the Rams fans here did their part.

"This is what I think university should be about," said Rana. "It was a great week for our university and our kids." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I don't think we're on the rise. I think we're there."

Coach Roy Rana who joined Ryerson in August 2009. Ryerson went 38-115 in the five years prior to Rana's arrival. The Rams were 17-2 this past regular season.

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The Bronx's new boys of summer

Lee Nguyen of New England Revolution tries to curl away from Mix Diskerud of New York City FC on Sunday at Yankee Stadium. David Villa had a goal and an assist to help New York City FC beat 10-man New England 2-0 on in its first-ever home match at the home of the Yankees. ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

Raps can't find their way vs. Trail Blazers

NBA. Led by PF Aldridge, Portland hand Dinos their 10th loss in 12 games

LaMarcus Aldridge poured in 24 points and Damian Lillard added 23 as the Portland Trail Blazers defeated the Toronto Raptors 113-97 at the Air Canada Centre on Sunday night.

The Trail Blazers (44-20) took advantage of a porous Toronto defence, shooting better than 60 per cent from the field in the first half and finishing the night 13-for-29 from three-point range.

DeMar DeRozan had 22 points to lead the Raptors (39-27), who lost for the tenth time in 12 starts.

Toronto's Greivis Vasquez hit a 13-foot jumper with 8:38 to go in the fourth capping a 6-0 run that cut the Portland lead to eight points and briefly energized the sellout crowd of 20,053.

But the Trail Blazers responded with a 16-8 run of their own over the next five minutes to end any possibility of drama and send many of the fans to the exits.

The Raptors had lost nine of 10 games before a 10-point win at home over Miami Friday night.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Raptors centre Jonas Valanciunas goes to the basket against Portland Trail Blazers big man Robin Lopez during first half on Sunday at Air Canada Centre.
AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLS

"It wasn't a red card and nothing that I've heard really otherwise has changed my mind."

Toronto FC coach Greg Vanney.
At the end of a scoreless first half, Toronto's Justin Morrow was shown a red card after a hard tackle on Ethan Finley just outside the box in Saturday's 2-0 loss to the Columbus Crew. Columbus (1-1-0) took advantage of playing a man up quickly in the second half, scoring in the 57th minute. TFC (1-1-0) had not decided as of Saturday night whether they would appeal the red card or not.

NCAA basketball

UConn ousted before big dance

Markus Kennedy scored 15 points, and No. 20 SMU held off UConn 62-54 on Sunday to win the American Athletic Conference tournament title.

The defending national champion Huskies fell a game short of winning four times in four days and earning a trip back to the NCAA tournament.

The Kentucky Wildcats (34-0) will be the No. 1 seed when March Madness begins. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB spring training

Split Jays squad squashes juniors

R.A. Dickey gave up two runs in five innings, Russell Martin drove in a run and a Toronto Blue Jays split squad routed the Canadian junior national team 17-3 on Sunday.

Jose Bautista hit a two-run homer, Jose Reyes had a run-scoring triple and a double, and Toronto's other split squad roughed up Julio Teheran and the Atlanta Braves for a 10-5 victory.

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Do something meaningful this week. Whatever it is, do it with others rather than on your own. As a group you may, in some small way, change the world.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You may be eager to push ahead with a project you know will be a success but the planets warn the timing is not right. Wait until Friday's solar eclipse.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Leave yourself plenty of time to reach your destination. Some days you can leave everything to the last minute, but today you have got to be organized.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
It is possible you could come into money this week but it is also possible that you will lose money. Jupiter, planet of luck but also extravagance, warns you need to stay on top of the wasteful side of your nature.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Something will happen today that is a challenge and opportunity. While the challenge may come from the outside it is the way you react to it on the inside that makes it an opportunity.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Stay calm, be patient and don't try to force the pace. Accept that, where work is concerned, you have no choice but to wait while others catch up.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Make sure you know what you are getting into today because if you let others take charge and decide what you will be doing you could end up in a place you don't really want to go.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
What is simple to you may be complicated to someone else, so don't get uptight if they can't grasp it. Patience may not be one of your virtues but you will need plenty of it today.

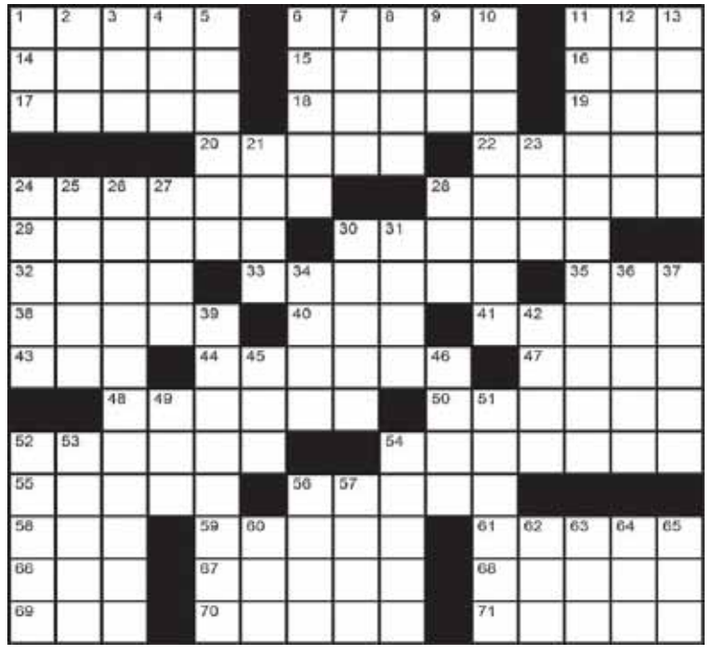
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Nothing in your life is so urgent that it must be done right this moment and if anyone tells you otherwise they are not to be trusted. Bide your time and let others make the first move.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Why do some people get hysterical over minor matters? Whatever the reason it's unlikely they are going to change, so make allowances.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You feel confident but don't go too far and say or do something that risks making an enemy of people who are way beyond you in the power stakes.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Don't cut corners and hope no one notices. They will. You may be falling behind and need to catch up but there is a right way and a wrong way to do it.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



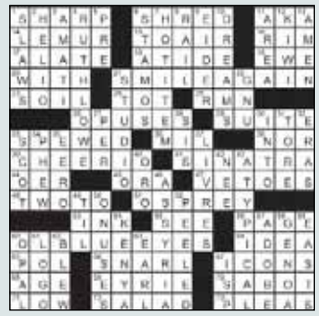
Across

1. Warning signal
6. Saskatchewan town south of Prince Albert
11. Scottish hat
14. Time lag
15. Garlic sauce
16. Folk classic: "__ _ Had a Hammer"
17. The Police leader
18. Comedian Nick with a self-titled sketch show
19. Habs, on score-boards
20. "An __ Husband" (1999)
22. Can's ingredients spot
24. Likes
28. BC: __ Lagoon Park, in Nanaimo
29. Chicken Soup link
30. Sweater sort
32. Unfeigned
33. Earlier match or round, short-style
35. "WiLD4TheNight (EgoLand)" Canadian rapper
38. De-sud
40. Frying need
41. __ kebab
43. Founded, for short
44. "Goodness.": 2 wds.
47. 'Within'-meaning prefix
48. More sore
50. Thermal __ (Hot/cold spot detector)
52. Ancient death god
54. Sherry __, Canadian entrepreneur/philanthropist
55. WWII-era model
56. Panache
58. WSW's opposite
59. Arctic = __ region
61. Baseball base
66. Edinburgh 'uh-uh'
67. Overturn
68. Workshop machine
69. Gent's honorific
70. Grooms-to-be events
71. Fund

Down

1. Classified listings, e.g.
2. Permit
3. Will Smith flick
4. Operated (Western Canada scenic train journey provider)
5. "___ (Gone Gone Gone)" by Chilliwack
6. Exclaims "Rise and shine!"
7. Broadcast, __ _ show
8. __-Aid (Flavoured drink)
9. mEntire
10. As per #11-Down... __ Lake, BC (Headquarters of Pioneer Log Homes)
11. HGTV's log cabins show: 2 wds.
12. Later
13. Paper factories
21. Heavy, as emotion
23. Prefix to 'culture' (Beekeeping)
24. Cavern
25. Ms. Day
26. Rocky __
27. Chemical suffixes
28. Fraternity letter
30. Johanna __ (Opera soprano)
31. Seasoned stew, __ podrida
34. Drove
36. Prefix with 'arthritis'
37. Cut
39. Dawn horse
42. Cabbage unit
45. Hellos
46. Rihanna's nickname
49. French vineyard
51. __ Beach, South Carolina
52. Debuts, as a musical
53. __ Peninsula, in Egypt
54. Poets
56. __ collar
57. CBC News program, "The Exchange with Amanda __"
60. Decide
62. Harrison's "Star Wars" (1977) role
63. "__ be my pleasure."
64. Pi's follower
65. Mother Nature's coat

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

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Yesterday's Sudoku

1	5	8	7	3	2	9	6	4
6	3	9	1	8	4	5	2	7
4	2	7	6	5	9	8	3	1
2	1	4	8	9	3	7	5	6
8	7	3	5	2	6	4	1	9
9	6	5	4	7	1	2	8	3
5	8	1	9	6	7	3	4	2
3	9	6	2	4	5	1	7	8
7	4	2	3	1	8	6	9	5

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